

TRAFFIC & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE September 14, 2006 MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Burbank Traffic & Transportation Committee was held in the City Council Chambers, 275 East Olive Avenue, on the above date. Michael Flad, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

Members Present: Michael Flad, Chair
Sam Asheghian
Gary Bric
Lt. Ron Caruso
Donald Farquhar
Ralph Herman
Hank Jannace
David Kriske
Michael Napolitano
Rene Salas
Joe Terranova, Vice Chair

Members Absent: Brian Malone

Staff Present: Ken Johnson – Asst Public Works Director, Traffic Engineer
Rabie Rahmani – Principal Traffic Engineer, Public Works
Karen McMurray – Administrative Analyst I, Public Works
Carolyn Scully – Recording Secretary, Public Works

I. FLAG SALUTE

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the June 1, 2006 meeting with an abstention by Mr. Herman.

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS: (Limited to items on the printed agenda or items regarding the business of the Traffic & Transportation Committee)

A. Public

Mr. Roland Kaali, Burbank resident, presented pictures to the committee members, of large vehicles similar to the size of his recreational vehicle. The pictures were taken around his neighborhood in Burbank. Mr. Kaali asked if the committee was taking issue with R.V.'s due to their size or R.V.'s in general.

Mr. Jim Kipper, reporting for Tri-City Transportations Systems (City Cab, Yellow Cab and Checker Cab), said that Tri-City has purchased 6 CNG vehicles with 8 more to follow. Mr. Kipper also stated that Tri-City has submitted a letter regarding the Burbank Airport and a possible increase in the taxi surcharge fee to mirror that of LAX. However, the letter was submitted after the agenda had been established.

Mr. John Markland of Enova Medical Response stated they his company offers 24 hour ambulance response service. They currently work in Pasadena, Los Angeles, Alhambra, Beverly Hills, Long Beach and Santa Monica. Enova has a training center for CPR/First Aid. Enova also offers their training services to schools, church's, etc.

Dan Wells, alias Dan the Peddler offered to bring pedi cabs to the Downtown area. Mr. Wells brought various ordinances from other city in the U.S. that allows the use of pedi cabs, in addition to his insurance policy. Mr. Wells stated that the City of Glendale gave him the green light to operate. He does not charge a fee but will accept tips.

Ms. Julie Leiker, Burbank resident informed the committee that she stores her R.V. at Burbank R.V. Storage. When she and her family bring the R.V. home to prepare for a trip they need at least 24 hours for charging, stocking supplies and clean up. Ms. Leiker stated that she abides by the rules and would like to see the committee concentrate on those that are illegally parked and living in their R.V.

B. Committee Members/Staff

Mr. Flad introduced Ralph Herman as the newest Council appointee to the Traffic and Transportation Committee.

Mr. Flad responded to Ms. Leiker's suggestion by stating that the committee would like to find a balance between the R.V. owner and non-owner who feels intruded upon by inconsiderate R.V. owners.

Mr. Bric suggested that Ms. Leiker invite her friends to the community meeting on November 9th at 6:30 at the Buena Vista branch library.

Mr. Terranova advised Ms. Leiker that a few areas of concern are storage of R.V.'s on city streets, blocking the line of site for other motorists and how to better enforce the 72 hour rule.

Mr. Herman inquired about how the Police Department knows when an R.V. is in compliance.

III. REPORTS

**A. Taxi Cab Report
– Terre Hirsch**

Mr. Hirsch stated that all 120 cabs had been inspected for the 06/07 FY with the last cab being inspected on September 13th. Mr. Hirsch thanked his own staff member Kathe Ford as well as Lt. Ron Caruso and his staff for working so hard on completing the inspections.

Mr. Hirsch reported that the approval of 60 permits issued to Tri-City Transportation Systems was appealed by Gorgee Enterprises (Peoples Taxi). The appeals panel consists of personnel from the City Manager's office and department heads within the City of Burbank. A decision will be made in November. If the appeal is denied, that decision can be appealed for a 2nd time to the City Council.

Mr. Hirsch advised the committee that the San Gabriel transit surcharge fee of \$2.50 is reflective of LAX. Mr. Hirsch suggested thought it important to ask where the money will go and what it will be used for. Mr. Hirsch will supply Mr. Johnson with information on what LAX does with the money. Mr. Hirsch reminded the committee that this would not be an action item but will be informational only for Traffic and Transportation to file.

Mr. Flad questioned the expectation of where the revenue would be going, what the justification is, how many trips are made annually from the airport and how much revenue is expected.

B. Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for Enova Medical Response to provide ambulance services in Burbank – Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson reminded the committee that in July 2004 committee member Bric made a motion to add (to the already established BMC requirements) the following requirements for consideration of Convenience and Necessity: 1) a current operating permit from the County of Los Angeles, and 2) reasonable proximity of the ambulance service office to Burbank. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Johnson advised the committee that neither Enova Medical Response nor Prime-Medical Transportation (Report Item C) are licensed by the County of Los Angeles. Staff recommends that the committee decline the applications of both Enova and Prime-Medical.

Mr. Bric inquired as to who we call for extra emergency personnel. Mr. Johnson advised that the Burbank Fire Department is the first to respond and if necessary they will call on other emergency services. The BFD has a significant network to refer to. Mr. Flad requested that we bring someone in from the BFD who can explain their emergency call-out system. Mr. Bric would like to know of any other EMT companies working in the City of Burbank besides Schaeffer Ambulance Service.

A motion was made by Gary Bric and seconded by Joe Terranova that until Enova Medical Response and Prime-Medical Transportation are permitted with the County of Los Angeles the committee will decline the applications of both companies. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Terranova asked that it be noted the decision was made without prejudice. Mr. Terranova encouraged the applicants to return once they are permitted with the County of Los Angeles.

C. Certificate of Convenience and Necessity for Prime-Medical Transportation to provide ambulance services in Burbank – Ken Johnson

Refer to report item B.

D. Request of Daniel Wells to start Pedi Cab operations in Downtown Burbank – Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson reported that Daniel Wells would like to operate a free Pedi Cab (bicycle conveyance) service in Downtown Burbank. Mr. Johnson advised the committee that he did not find any regulations governing the operation of a free conveyance service in either the Burbank Municipal Code or the California Vehicle Code. Staff suggested that the committee postpone this item. Mr. Johnson would like time to discuss the issue with the City Attorney's office and collect other City comments.

Mr. Hirsch advised that there is a difference between a peddler of bikes and a peddler of goods. One must obtain a license with the City to peddle goods. Mr. Hirsch suggested that there may be a need for a new code section with regards to pedi cab operations.

Mr. Wells said that he does have a license for door to door sales but that his pedi cab operation is completely separate from this other business. He can offer the rides free of charge because he makes money by offering advertising space on his pedi cab and working at the L.A. County Fair and NASCAR races. Mr. Wells stated that his pedi cab which features turning signals and brake lights is one of the two top models available.

Mr. Herman expressed concern that San Fernando Blvd is such a narrow street and at night visibility could be a problem. Mr. Herman also questioned the stability of the pedi cab on a hill and asked if kids under the age of 18 would wear a helmet.

Mr. Wells stated that the pedi cab is designed to go slow and suggested that the City remove his privilege if they receive one or two complaints about him interfering with traffic. He also said that he does not ride in to public or private parking structures or lots.

Mr. Hirsch advised the committee that tips are a consideration for service or product and should be reviewed by the City Attorney's office. Mr. Hirsch added that consideration should be given to the Community Development Department and the City should be added to Mr. Wells's insurance policy as additional insured.

Lt. Caruso confirmed that all rules of the road that apply cars also apply to any other moving vehicle, bicycles included. No seatbelts are required; however the bicycle helmet law would be enforced.

Mr. Napolitano said he would like to see Mr. Wells start now while we begin our research so we can see how it works and if any problems arise.

A motion was made by Joe Terranova and seconded by Mike Flad to table this item to the next meeting when the committee is in receipt of all research. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Update on Recreational Vehicle Parking Restrictions – Ken Johnson

Mr. Johnson advised the committee that as previously discussed an informal community R.V. group meeting has been scheduled for 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 9, 2006 in the Buena Vista branch library conference room. All committee members are invited to attend and will sit as a group. The focus of discussion will be kept on the use of street parking and parking near an intersection. The desire is to find a workable solution to meet the needs of the City of Burbank and R.V. owners. The results of the meeting will be brought back to the December Traffic and Transportation Committee meeting as an action item.

Mr. Bric suggested media advertising such as the local newspaper and Channel 6. Mr. Terranova requested visual aids for the meeting. He would like to know the length, width and height of various R.V.'s as well as all pertinent BMC and vehicle codes.

F. Report from CDD and/or Park & Recreation regarding new transportation programs – David Kriske

Mr. Kriske gave an update on current and future transit services offered in the City of Burbank. The Burbank Transit services (operated by the Park, Recreation & Community Services Department) have migrated from a single fixed route between Downtown and the Media District and a demand responsive service serving the Downtown area and the airport to a service that offers five fixed routes. The routes service Downtown, the Media District, the airport area and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Orange and Red Lines coming out of No. Hollywood. All Burbank Transit buses are currently being repainted with the new BurbankBus branding and are blue. In addition to the five fixed route services, BurbankBus also includes Senior and Disabled Transit and Got Wheels servicing the city's seniors and youth. These buses fall under the umbrella of the Burbank Transit services but do not service the mainstream public. Mr. Kriske went on to report that with the additional routes and buses they are now seeing 30,000 boarding's per month. The people who utilize this service are primarily commuters going in and out of the City. A survey completed by a transit marketing firm revealed that the buses are primarily serving Metrolink passengers. Others using the service are coming from the Orange and Red Lines as well as MTA buses. Requests for improvement include: more frequent service; midday service; more seats on some buses. Mr. Kriske stated that they are expecting four newer buses sometime next year (all transit buses

use CNG). We are currently using Prop A and Prop C local return sales tax funds to pay for the service. To meet newer demands and expand service the Community Development Department must find other funding opportunities. Mr. Kriske informed the committee that in addition to informational mailings to employers within the City of Burbank, information can also be found at www.BurbankBus.org

Mr. Kriske stated that the MTA is currently in the process of changing local routes, consolidating routes to improve efficiency and moving lines to connect with other non MTA lines. CDD is monitoring this process. The MTA is also working on a Rapid Service line that could possibly be up and running within the next year or two. This line would run along San Fernando Road from downtown Los Angeles to Sylmar making stops every 10 to 12 minutes during the peak commute periods. Another project is the Missing Link. This line would connect the North Hollywood Red Line station, Burbank, Glendale, and the Pasadena Gold Line. Mr. Kriske reported that MTA has allocated funding for this service which would operate as an express bus similar to the rapid service but with fewer stops.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS –

Mr. Bric would like staff to contact Caltrans regarding signal timing at Hollywood Way and the I-5 Hollywood Way north exit/entrance.

Mr. Bric will make sure that Council receives a copy of the minutes.

Mr. Bric said that speed humps are being installed on California Street between Burbank Blvd and Wyoming. He asked why the request did not come before the T&T Committee. Mr. Johnson state that California Street met the criteria for speed humps so staff went directly to Council for appropriation of funds.

Mr. Bric asked why some streets have street sweeping signs and others do not. Mr. Johnson responded that some neighborhoods request them. In addition, members of the Public Works field crew periodically go door to door asking residents if they would like street sweeping signs posted. Mr. Flad stated that street sweeping is not only for beautification but also assures that storm water runoff does not go in to the sewer drains.

Mr. Herman requested action on deterring large advertising vehicles from parking on freeway overpasses near the Media District. Mr. Johnson said that he will bring this back as an action item and if the committee votes to install no parking signs he will do so.

Mr. Herman expressed concern regarding the bus stop on Ontario Street at the intersection of Olive Avenue and Alameda. Mr. Herman feels there is a potential for traffic backing up in the right hand lane. Mr. Johnson advised that staff is observing this to make sure that the new stop works well.

Mr. Herman asked if there was anything that could be done to prohibit drivers from blocking the crosswalk of the Chandler Blvd/Buena Vista Street and Chandler Blvd/Hollywood Way intersections while waiting for the left and right turn signals to change. Mr. Johnson stated that the signals at these intersections have been designed with the intent to prohibit just that.

Mr. Asheghian informed Lt. Caruso that bicyclists on the sidewalks in the Magnolia Park have become a problem. Mr. Asheghian stated that merchants or customers come out of the Magnolia Park shops just as the bicycle riders are riding by. He is concerned about the safety of all and asked Lt. Caruso if anything could be done about the

bicyclists. Lt. Caruso replied that the bicyclists have a right to ride on the sidewalk. Due to the age of some (very young or elderly) it would not be appropriate to encourage them to ride in the street and not the sidewalk.

Mr. Asheghian inquired about the status of his future agenda item B as shown on the September 14, 2006 agenda: Request for No Left Turn sign in to Handy Market lot from Magnolia Blvd. Mr. Johnson stated that it was determined that it would unnecessarily prohibit turning and the request was turned down. Mr. Johnson will bring the paperwork for Mr. Asheghian to review.

Mr. Terranova asked if any Caltrans improvements are scheduled between Western and Olive at the off ramps. Several projects were brought up and Mr. Johnson was asked to bring back project information for the committee.

V. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Parking Restrictions on Freeway Overpasses (Herman)
- San Fernando Blvd./ Magnolia Blvd. Traffic Congestion
- Parking Restrictions at 321 Sunset Blvd (Bric)
- Discussion of Traffic Calming Devices (Terranova)
- Parking on Buena Vista St north of Alameda Ave (Bric)

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Thursday, November 9, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Johnson, Traffic Engineer

KJ:cs